



AAAC Minutes for November 13, 2024

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Virtual and In Person: DCFS 1755 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield, IL

Council Members Present:

Sebastian Emmanuel; Nancy Rodriguez; Beaulu Varghese; Suk M. Wong; Jophia P. George

Excused:

Stany D'Souza; Benny Kuriakose; Jose Chacko; Jose Thomas; Khushbu S. Dalal; Linson Thomas; Michelle Buckle; Najma Adam; Saju Philip; Sarah Viernum; Sofia Dumlao; Santhosh Kurian; Ryann Unabia; Joseph Antony; Bino Simon

Guests: Amir Sharif; Tajinder Kaur

Kara Hamilton: Associate Deputy Director, External Communications and Advisory Groups

Ada Tong: Chief of Asian American Services and Director's Liaison

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Sebastian Emmanuel called meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes for 7-10-2024 and 9-25-2024; 10-23-2024

Due to no quorum, minutes are tabled.



Asian American Star, Issue 6 for 2024 (Chairperson, Nancy Rodriguez)

Ada Tong is following up with DCFS Communications regarding Star newsletter, issue 6 for approval and posting onto D-Net.

2024 AAAC Handbook Updating (Nancy Rodriguez and Ada Tong)

Kara Hamilton stated that she will find out if book binding can be approved for the AAAC handbook.

DCFS Joint Advisory Council / Executive Committee Meeting Updates

Nancy Rodriguez completed the position paper draft and submitted to the Joint Executive Committee. DCFS Director had resolved the placement issues with implementation of the Emergency Reception Homes (ERH) and it was announced in the D-Net on 11-7-2024. Therefore, the position paper draft will not move forward since the children and youths are utilizing ERH.

2025 AAAC Family Institute (Chairperson TBD)

Family Institute Chairperson Nancy Rodriguez stated that in the next month, we will discuss venue options. The council discussed dates for the Family Institute event. It was decided that the event can be held on May 9 or 23, but preferably May 9.

Updates from the Chief of Asian American Services (Ada Tong)

Ada Tong stated that for the month of October 2024, there was a total of 78 Asian American DCFS active staff. In October 2024, there was 15 Asian American PSA and 5 Asian American SPSA. There was no data on any new Asian American hires.

2025 Professional Development (Chairperson TBD)

Professional Development Chairperson, Suk M. Wong has put together a program for the Professional Development and Innovation virtual event. They will be reaching out to Illinois Attorney General for the Presenters for the following topics:

- **Impact of social media and IA on child welfare**
- **DCFS policy on social media and IA**

Date of the event is 1-24-2025. Alternate date is 1-31-2025. Time is 9:00am to 12:00pm.



NEW BUSINESS

Any other matter

The Asian American Advisory Council will have the Christmas celebration in person at DCFS – Deerfield on 12-18-2024 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Council meeting will be held thereafter at 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Sebastian Emmanuel has taken the lead on the Christmas celebration.

Next Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings are 12-18-2024.

Meeting Adjournment

Nancy Rodriguez
Secretary